



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Laurel Man Pleads Guilty to Drug-Related Armed Robbery at Clarksville Home

A 23-year-old Laurel man has pleaded guilty to the April 10 drug-related armed robbery at a Clarksville home. Irvin Jacob Smith, of the 9600 block of Overton Drive, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree assault and two counts of armed robbery in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

Assistant States Attorney Natasha Byus told the court that police responded to a home, located in the 5900 block of Trotter Road, shortly after midnight on April 11 where the occupants reported that two men had robbed them after being invited into the residence to conduct a drug transaction. Once the two men entered the homeowner's bedroom, Smith's accomplice produced a semi-automatic handgun and announced a robbery. The two then proceeded to rob the victims of their cell phones, along with luxury clothing accessories and a Rolex watch— all of which totaled over \$13,000.

Byus stated that Smith was known and identified by one of the victims. In addition, home surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects, and Smith was determined to be in possession of some of the items stolen from a victim.

Judge William V. Tucker set a sentencing date of January 5, 2018. Smith's accomplice, Abdulai Karim Sesay Braima, 19 of Laurel, has a trial date set for December 18.

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